

SHINING TIME STATION

"SCHEMER'S MOMMY LEAVES TOWN"

BY

WILSON CONEYBEARE

(Alternative title:
"Throw Schemer's Momma On the Train"

FIRST DRAFT
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SCENE 1
(MAINSET)

(STACY IS UP ON LADDER CHANGING
LIGHTBULB IN HANGING FIXTURE. DAN
HOLDS LADDER)

STACY:

Out with the old
lightbulb, in with the
new -- and now Shining
Time Station will even
shine brighter!

DAN:

I don't understand, Aunt
Stacy. Why does Billy
call this Odd Job day?

STACY:

(COMING OFF LADDER)

Oh well, that's just
Billy's way of saying
that every now and then
we have to get after
those little jobs we keep
putting off.

DAN:

Like when I really have
to clean out my closet,
instead of just saying
I'm going to.

STACY:

Or putting all your books
and toys away or --

BILLY:

(ENTERING WITH KARA CARRYING WOOD,
DRILL, NAILS, ETC.)

-- or finally building a
new shelf for the
workshop!

SCENE 1 (CONT'D)

KARA:

And I get to hammer in
the nails. Well, help
hammer in the nails.

DAN:

Gee, sounds to me like
Odd Job Day should be
called Do a Lot of Work
Day.

KARA:

How come we Schemer isn't
doing anything?

(WE SEE SCHEMER IN THE ARCADE
TALKING ON THE PAY PHONE)

STACY:

Well, Schemer's mother is
going to Snarlyville today
so Schemer's going to be
busy enough as it is.

(WE GO TO A VERY ARROGANT SCHEMER
ON THE PHONE)

SCHEMER:

Mommy Mommy Mommy Mommy.
Take care of myself? I
am a business man. Of
course I can take care of
myself. Like what?
BRUSH MY OWN TEETH??
Okay okay, let me write
this down --

(PEN AND PAPER TO MAKE LIST)

Anything else? Take the
trash out where? Oh,
outside. Water the
cactus, feed the skunk,
mow the plants, water the
yard -- that's with a
hose, right?

BACK TO BILLY AND OTHERS. BILLY
RINS)

SCENE 1 (CONT'D)

BILLY:

Yep, sounds to me like
Schemer's going to have
his hands full.

(BILLY AND KARA EXIT TO WORKROOM.
WE GO BACK TO SCHEMER WINDING UP
CONVERSATION, FINISHING LIST)

SCHEMER:

Mommy, you just have a
good time in Snarlyville
and I'll take as good
care of myself as if it
was me personally.

(HANGS UP AS STACY COMES OVER)

STACY:

Gee Schemer, it sounds
like you've got a lot of
things to do while your
mother's away. It's good
to see you're so calm.

SCHEMER:

Calm? Miss Jones, let me
put it this way...

(HE FREAKS, THROWS LIST IN AIR)

She's gone she's gone
she's gone and I don't
know how to put out the
trash! Nobody can do
that alone, it's too
complicated! And she
wants me to water the
plants! What does she
think I am, a rocket
scientist?

STACY:

Gee, Schemer, hasn't your
mother ever gone away
before?

SCENE 1 (CONT'D)

SCHEMER:

She went to the store once.

STACY:

Oh Schemer...you're just going to have to work this out and be responsible for yourself. Maybe you could ask Midge Smoot about how to water plants.

SCHEMER:

Midge Smoot? Midge Smoot hates me.

STACY:

Oh no she doesn't. I'm sure if you asked people for a little help, they'd be glad to pitch in.

(AS SHE EXITS WITH LADDER)

It might be worth a try.

SCHEMER:

(MIMICS HER)

"Might be worth a try..."
A lot she cares. She's got all sorts of people to help her. Billy and those kids and...

SEES KARA AND DAN PASSING, GETS
IDEA)

Genius time! Hey kids,
c'mere.

KIDS COME OVER. MAGNANIMOUS
SCHEMER)

How would you kids like to play -- a game?

SCENE 1 (CONT'D)

DAN:

What's the game called?

SCHEMER:

The game is called Doing Stuff for Schemer. Here's how you play: you guys take this list, go to my house, do all the stuff on the list, and when you're done, come back here.

(KARA AND DAN LOOK AT EACH OTHER)

DAN:

Schemer, that's not a game. That's work.

SCHEMER:

Work? No no no, this is what you call friendship. See, you know me, I know you, so you guys should do this stuff for me for free.

DAN:

How about: we know you, you know us, so we'll do it if you pay us.

KARA:

Wait a minute, Dan. Aren't we supposed to be helping Stacy and Billy?

SCHEMER:

Whatever they're paying you, I'll pay you each five cents more!

DAN:

They're not paying us anything.

SCENE 1 (CONT'D)

SCHEMER:

In that case, fifteen cents. But that's as high as I go!

KIDS:

Deal!

SCHEMER:

(HANDS THEM LIST)

There's your list, payment due upon completion of stuff.

KARA:

The two of us are supposed to do all this?

SCHEMER:

Then get your friend Becky. Jees, do I have to do everything?! Now go go go go go!

(KIDS TAKE OFF)

They fell for it!

(TAKES OUT COMB, GROOMS HIMSELF)

Yessir, you've got to wake up pretty late on the wrong side of the bed to outwit the Schemer.

(TAKES OUT PERSONAL NOTEBOOK AND HUMBS THROUGH IT)

A few more call-er-oonis and Schemer will be living on Lazy Street!

AS HE GOES TO PHONE, WE GO TO:)

SCENE 2
(JUKEBOX)

TITO:

Kinda strange thinkin'
'bout the Schemer without
his mother around.

DIDI:

I think it's kind of sad.

GRACE:

What's so sad about it?
Schemer may not have his
mother around, but then
Schemer's mother doesn't
have Schemer around.

DIDI:

Still, it's kind of like
-- a fishing rod without
a reel!

REX:

Kinda like a wagon
without its wheel.

TEX:

Or an old shoe without
her heel.

'THEY LAUGH THEMSELVES SILLY AT
THIS ONE)

FLIP TO:)

SCENE 3
(WORKSHOP)

WE SEE SHELF HALF BUILT ON WALL.
BILLY IS PLANING WOOD WHEN STACY
ENTERS WITH BOX OF CLEANING STUFF)

STACY:

Billy, have you seen Dan?

BILLY:

I thought he was helping
you.

STACY:

I thought he was in here
helping you and Kara.

BILLY:

I haven't seen Kara for
at least a half hour.

STACY:

How mysterious --

(MR. C. APPEARS ON SHELF AS
SHERLOCK HOLMES, COMPLETE WITH
DEERSTALKER AND MAGNIFYING GLASS)

MR. C:

If the mystery needs to be
solved/You know who will
be involved/It's a matter
of energy and pep/And
putting the clues
together step by step.

BILLY:

Speaking of steps, you'd
best watch yours, Mr.
Conductor. That shelf
isn't too secure.

SCENE 3 (CONT'D)

MR. C:

Oh don't worry about me.
As I always say --

(CRASH, HE GOES FLYING ALONG
WITH VARIOUS ITEMS ON SHELF. BILLY
AND STACY RUSH TO HELP HIM UP)

As I always say, you sure
can't be too big for
yourself/Not when you go
crashing right off a
shelf.

STACY:

Mr. Conductor, are you
okay?

MR. C:

Oh I'm fine. But
sometimes when you're
nailing up a shelf, it's
good to remember to use
nails.

BILLY:

I'm sorry about that mr.
Conductor. Kara said she
was going to help me put
the shelf in place -- but
it looks like she
disappeared on me.

MR. C:

Which is precisely the
mystery I was going to
solve in the first place
-- before I lost my
place, that is. And
speaking of places,
that's where Kara and Dan
went -- to Schemer's
place!

SCENE 3 (CONT'D)

STACY:

Oh, I think I know what happened. Schemer's mother went away for a day, so I'll be they're helping him do his chores.

BILLY:

Well, help or no help, it still wasn't right of them to walk out on us.

MR. C:

I'm afraid I have to agree. And speaking of help --

(MAGICALLY CHANGES CLOTHES TO WORKING CARPENTER'S GEAR. HE'S HOLDING NAIL AS BIG AS A JAVELIN)

-- perhaps I could help you with this shelf/Before some other small person hurts themself!

(BILLY NODS. REACHES FOR HIS HAMMER AS WE GO TO:)

SCENE 4
(ARCADE)

SCHEMER IS ON THE PHONE MAKING AN ORDER)

SCHEMER:

Listen, Winslow, I am a customer who knows his cuisine, and when I say I'm ordering fifteen Chilly Willy's Super Fudgeo Gorgeous Goo Ice Cream Bars, I mean I want them and I want them RSVP! Gotta go!

(HE HANGS UP AS TWO STEVEDORES WEARING JACKETS THAT READ "EGGYWEGG SHIPPING" HAVE ARRIVED WITH SCHEMER'S BEDROOM SET: A FOLD-UP BED, A CHILD'S DRESSER, SOME STUFFED ANIMALS)

Okay, boys, set it up here, set it up here! Easy easy!

(A PICTURE FALLS OFF THE DRESSER, SCHEMER GRABS IT)

Hey, careful! That's my mommy's favorite picture of me.

(HE CLEANS IT WITH HIS SLEEVE. WE SEE IT'S A PICTURE OF A BABY WITH SCHEMER'S HEAD. THE RATTLE IS A HUGE NICKEL. COMING BACK, WE SEE HE DELIVERY GUY HAND SCHEMER A BILL)

DELIVERY GUY:

Here's your bill, Mack.

SCHEMER:

Thirty-five cents to move a guy's furniture? Talk about bedroom robbery. Jees, all some people think about is the almighty nickel. Okay, here you go.

SCENE 4 (CONT'D)

(WRITES OUT IOU, HANDS IT TO GUY)

DELIVERY GUY:

"I Owe You thirty-five cents?" You kiddin' me?
We need cash.

SCHEMER:

Cash? Who said I wasn't going to -- uh -- tip you with cash?

(GIVE EACH A NICKEL)

One for you and one for you. And about that IOU? Don't worry, guys, there's plenty more where those came from.

(DISGRUNTLED BUT NOT WILLING TO COMPLAIN, THE GUYS LEAVE, PASSING STACY, WHO STARES AS SCHEMER SETS UP () IS "BEDROOM")

STACY:

What in the world...
Schemer, what is all this?

SCHEMER:

Just a few things from home, Miss Jones, a few items to give this place the illusion of three dimension.

STACY:

Schemer, you can't be thinking of living and sleeping in the station because your mother's away?

SCENE 4 (CONT'D)

SCHEMER:

Oh sure! Kick a guy out on the street like a stray dog no one cares about -- left in the gutter like a half eaten cookie with the chocolate scraped off.

STACY:

Schemer, no one said anything about kicking anyone out on the street. But this is a railroad station, not a hotel.

SCHEMER:

Okay! I didn't want to do this, but you asked for it...

(GETS ON HIS HANDS AND KNEES AND BEGGS)

Please please please
please please, Miss
Jones! Don't kick me
out on the street...
alone... forgotten... a
poor trembling bird
wailing for winter's
final merciless
judgment...

STACY:

Schemer, don't be so dramatic. I never aid I was going to kick you out on the street.

SCHEMER:

You didn't?

F HIS KNEES)

Boy, make a guy crawl, why don't you?

(ANY COMES IN WITH A WHEELBARROW
OF SCHEMER'S CLOTHES)

SCENE 4 (CONT'D)

GINNY:

He hey hey, what do we
say?

SCHEMER:

A wheelbarrow? You're
carting Schemer's
precious laundry around
in a wheelbarrow?

GINNY:

Schemer, you've go so
many clothes I couldn't
think of any other way
to cart 'em around. Then
it hit me! Blast me out
of a cannon backwards, I
said, use a wheelbarrow!

SCHEMER:

But that's had like hay
and grain and and goop
and mud in it!

GINNY:

Oh quit whinin'. I hose
her out beforehand.

SCHEMER:

GOES THROUGH CLOTHES)

This is clean, this is
dirty! Cleany, dirty,
another cleany, cleany,
dirty. What am I payin
you for?

GINNY:

Good point. If you're
paying me then you'd
better cough up or I'll
--

SCENE 4 (CONT'D)

SCHEMER:

(WRITING IOU)

As promised. I owe
you for doing laundry.)

GINNY:

An IOU?

(BEARS DOWN ON HIM. SCHEMER BACKS
AWAY)

Schemer...

SCHEMER:

I'll pay, I'll pay, it's
just that I have a
shortfall of nickels.
I'm liquefied.

(SHE BEARS DOWN)

How about a nickel tip?

(NO RESPONSE)

In advance?

(NO RESPONSE)

A two nickel tip in
advance?

GINNY:

GRABS MONEY)

Sold! But remember, I'm
only doing this
because... well, I feel
sorry for the situation.

SCHEMER:

You mean my mommy being
away from me?

SCENE 4 (CONT'D)

GINNY:

No, the fact that your mommy has to come back to you!

(SHE LAUGHS AT THIS, TURNS AND EXITS WITH WHEELBARROW OF "DIRTIES." SCHEMER BEGINS SORTING HIS CLEAN LAUNDRY)

STACY:

Schemer, aren't you ashamed of yourself?

SCHEMER:

Miss Jones, you're absolutely right. I should have thought of this IOU scam a long time ago.

STACY:

Schemer, I'm talking about getting everyone to work for you. Don't you think you should take a little responsibility for yourself?

SCENE 4 (CONT'D)

SCHEMER:

In a word, no. Miss Jones, just because a busy businessman's mommy goes away for a day doesn't mean he should take care of himself -- not when others will do it for him.

(STACY, TOTALLY FRUSTRATED, IS ABOUT TO SAY SOMETHING, CLENCHES, JUST WALKS AWAY)

What? What'd I say?
Okay, you want me to be responsible I'll be responsible. I'll --

(LOOKS AROUND. HE HAS NOTHING TO DO)

I'll play some music!

(STARTS TO PUT NICKEL IN THE JUKEBOX, CONSIDERS IT, SHAKES HIS HEAD "NAAH", WRITES OUT AN IOU. HE'S CAREFUL TO MAKE SURE NO ONE SEES HIM AS HE JAMS IT INTO JUKEBOX)

SCENE 5
(JUKEBOX)

(TITO STARING IN AMAZEMENT AT IOU)

TITO:

"I owe you one song???"
Talk about impatience,
man. Those other cats
might fall for this paper
money but not me! What
do we say gang?

OTHERS:

No pay, no play!

SCENE 6
(ARCADE)

(FRUSTRATED SCHEMER HITTING
JUKEBOX)

SCHEMER:

Come on, you hunk of junk
-- play!

(GIVES UP)

How do you like that? Whoever said
a jukebox was a man's best friend?

I'm gonna shut this thing down once
and for all!

(HE REACHES DOWN TO UNPLUG IT)

SCENE 7
(JUKEBOX)

(PUPPETS PANIC)

REX:

He's gonna shut us down,
Tex!

TEX:

He's gonna unplug us!

GRACE:

Tito, I'd say now's the
time we finally do that
charity gig we've always
talked about.

TITO:

You said it sister. One
two three --

(GO INTO SONG)

SCENE 8
(ARCADE)

(AN AMAZED SCHEMER, ON HANDS AND KNEES ABOUT TO UNPLUG JUKEBOX, LISTENS IN AMAZEMENT)

SCHEMER:

Well, how do you like that? It's spontaneous combustion!

(PREPARES TO LIE DOWN ON BED AND LISTEN TO MUSIC)

(AS PUPPETS PLAY WE HAVE FOLLOWING MONTAGE:

KIDS RETURN AND SCHEMER CHECKS OFF LIST TO MAKE SURE THEY DID ALL ITEMS. GIVES THEM ANOTHER LIST. EXHAUSTED, THEY GO OUT.

BARTON DELIVERS COOLER OF ICE CREAM BARS. SCHEMER STARTS ON ONE RIGHT AWAY, WRITES BARTON AN IOU.

GINNY REAPPEARS AND SCHEMER EXAMINES THE LAUNDRY.

MIDGE SMOOT ARRANGES FLOWERS AROUND SCHEMER'S "BEDROOM".

GINNY IS SEEN SETTING UP CLOTHESLINE FOR SCHEMER'S LAUNDRY.

AT END WE SEE EVERYONE ATTENDING SCHEMER, WHO IS LYING IN BED EATING AN ICE CREAM BAR)

(DISSOLVE TO:)

SCENE 9
(WORKSHOP)

(MR. C., STILL IN CARPENTER'S GEAR, IS HELPING BILLY FIX THE SHELF. IDEA: HE'S HOLDING NAILS FOR BILLY TO TAKE AND HAMMER. EVERY TIME BILLY IS ABOUT TO HAMMER, MR. C. JUMPS BACK, BILLY HAMMERS, MR. C. JUMPS BACK IN, ADJUSTS NAIL, JUMPS BACK OUT, BILLY HAMMERS, ETC. ON FINAL NAIL --)

BILLY:

Just one more nail,
Mr. Conductor, and then
we can be sure no one
will fall from this shelf
again.

(STACY ENTERS)

STACY:

Speaking of falling, I
think that Schemer's
headed for a fall
himself.

BILLY:

Got everyone working for
him does he?

STACY:

He's even got Ginny doing
his laundry.

MR. C:

Oh dear, that does sound
like a dirty affair.
But of course, it might
not just be Schemer who's
headed for a fall, but
the people who are
helping him as well.

STACY:

What do you mean, Mr.
Conductor?

SCENE 9 (CONT'D)

MR. C:

Well, sometimes even when people help each other, things can still go wrong. It's sort of like the story of James and Percy on the Island of Sodor.

BILLY:

I don't imagine Percy or James were writing IOU's. though.

MR. C:

Oh no, but Percy got himself in an awful mess!

(HE BLOWS HIS WHISTLE AND WE DISSOLVE TO:)

SCENE 10

(THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE SEGMENT:
"PERCY, JAMES AND THE FRUITFUL
DAY")

SCENE 11
(WORKSHOP)

STACY:

That story certainly gives one food for thought, Mr. Conductor.

MR. C:

It certainly does. Even when we think we're taking a right turn, things can still sometimes go very wrong.

BILLY:

And it sounds to me like the way Schemer's goin, he might wind up in a bigger jam than Percy and James.

(THEY NOD IN AGREEMENT)

(DISSOLVE TO:)

SCENE 12
(MAINSET)

(A SIGN IN FRONT OF THE ARCADE
READS: "QUIET! SCHEMER'S NAPTIME
IN PROGRESS."

GINNY IS HANGING SCHEMER'S LAUNDRY
ON LINE, SCHEMER IS HAVING HIS
MID-DAY NAP, PROPPED UP IN BED WITH
HIS COWBOY CARL QUILT OVER
HIM, EATING AND ICE CREAM BAR.
MIDGE SMOOT SITS AT HIS BEDSIDE
WITH A STORY BOOK. SHE'S AS GOOEY
AND SOOTHING AS THE ICE CREAM BARS)

MIDGE:

Now Schemer, I don't
think those Chilly
Willy's Gorgeous Goo Ice
Cream bars are going to
help you get to sleep.

SCHEMER:

(MOUTH FULL)

What are you talking
about? I always eat a
Chilly Willy before my
mid-day nap. Another
thing --

(SNAPS HIS FINGERS AT GINNY,
GESTURES TO BLANKET ON CLOTHESLINE.
IT HAS NICKELS PAINTED ON IT)

Hey Gin! Toss it over!

GINNY:

What? This ratty old
horseblanket?

SCENE 12 (CONT'D)

SCHEMER:

Ratty old horseblanket?
Don't you have any
respect for a guy's
bankie? Jees...

(SHE GIVES IT TO HIM. HE SETTLES
IN)

Man can't nap without his
bankie. Okay, Miss
Smoot, fire away.

MIDGE:

Of course, Schemer. But
before I read your
favorite story from your
favorite storybook --

SCHEMER:

(TERROR-STRICKEN)

You're not going to give
me a beddy-time kiss, are
you?

MIDGE:

No, Schemer, I only have
this to say: cough it
up.

(SCHEMER SIGHS, WRITES HER AN IOU.
SHE BRASHLY POCKETS IT, RETURNS
TO THE STORYBOOK)

Once upon a time, there
were three little pigs.

SCHEMER:

No no no, I hate that
part, all that stuff
about the two stupid pigs
and the dumb old wolf.
Page eight, paragraph
three.

SCENE 12 (CONT'D)

MIDGE:

(FLIPS THROUGH, STARTS TO READ)

"...and so the third little pig said, " You can certainly stay in my house made of brick."

SCHEMER:

(STARTS TO CRY INTO HIS BLANKET)

I love this part.

MIDGE:

" 'But you'll each have to pay me a nickel to get in. It's called protection money.' "

SCHEMER:

It's so beautiful.

MIDGE:

"The two other pigs were destitute, and said, 'But we don't have any money,' to which the first pig said" --

SCHEMER:

" 'What do you think i,m running, a charity ward?'"

MIDGE:

Schemer, this is the most awful version of the three little pigs I've ever heard!

SCHEMER:

You mean there's another one?

SCENE 12 (CONT'D)

MIDGE:

I won't read another word.

(SCHEMER WRITES AND IOU, HANDS IT TO HER. MIDGE CONTINUES)

"So the first pig said to the other two pigs --"

(SCHEMER DROPS HIS ICE CREAM WRAPPER)

SCHEMER:

Freeze! Mess in the arcade! Ginny!

(SCHEMER POINTS TO WRAPPER ON FLOOR MEANING FOR GINNY TO CLEAN IT UP. SHE STARES AT IT, PUTS HER HAND OUT. SCHEMER SIGHS, WRITES HER AN IOU. SHE STILL HAS HER HAND OUT. HE SIGHS, REACHES IN CHANGEBELT AND REALIZES HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY MORE NICKELS, HANDS HER THE ICE CREAM BAR TO FREE HIS HAND SO HE CAN SEARCH FURTHER, STILL COMES UP BLANK)

How about we forget the tip?

GINNY:

(ICE CREAM BAR VERY CLOSE TO HIS FACE)

Schemer...

SCHEMER:

Okay okay okay okay okay!
I owe you one tip.

(WRITES ANOTHER IOU, SNAPS IT AT HER, GRABS BACK ICE CREAM BAR)

Jees, take a Chill Pill.

SCENE 12 (CONT'D)

(GINNY PICKS UP WRAPPER AS KIDS
COME IN EXHAUSTED. WE SEE GINNY
WIPE HER HANDS ON SCHEMER'S CLEAN
LAUNDRY)

BECKY:

Okay, Schemer, we've done
everything on the list!

KARA:

Yeah, we're pooped!

SCHEMER:

Hey hey hey, what's this
I hear? A discontented
working class? Get to it
kids, more to be done.

DAN:

We don't want to do
anymore, Schemer, we want
to be paid.

SCHEMER:

Well, if that's the way
you fell.

(HANDS THEM IOU)

Payment in full!

(KIDS STARE AT IOU)

KARA:

This is a piece of paper.

BECKY:

"I owe you for working
for me?"

DAN:

What kind of gyp is that?

SCENE 12 (CONT'D)

SCHEMER:

That is what is known as contractual law. You get paid in sixty days hence... hence whenever I feel like paying. Leggo: you have to accept the IOU.

GINNY:

Hold it! Open my eyes and shine in a flashlight, but are you saying you haven't paid anybody?

SCHEMER:

Define "pay".

GINNY:

Pay! With money!

MIDGE:

Schemer, if I hear you haven't paid anyone --

(BUT THEY ARE INTERRUPTED AS BARTON RIDES IN ON MOTORCYCLE WITH SIDE CAR. IN THE SIDECAR IS A BEAUTIFULLY ANOINTED TRAY OF FOOD, SILVER SERVING DISHES AND ALL. AS HE GETS OFF:)

KIDS:

It's Barton Winslow!

GINNY:

Hey there, Barton.

SCENE 12 (CONT'D)

BARTON:

What's the word, Ginny?
Nothing's too much, it's
just outta sight! Okay,
Schemer, I got the grub
you ordered -- and it's
drool-city, you dig?

(TAKES TRAY OUT OF SIDECAR, PUTS IT
IN FRONT OF SCHEMER, REVEALS EACH
DISH WITH INTRO)

First, as an appetizer, cool as a
summer day, and twice as long, one
genuine Barton Winslow slow pop
popsicle, with a side order of them
crisp crunchy and cruel salt and
vinegar potato chips. Then,
man, the piece de resistance! A
double whammy triple cheese cowboy
beefburger, swimmin' in relish, and
to wash it all down, on pistachio
flavored Barton Winslow milk shake
soda pop float! Well, man, can you
dig it?

SCHEMER:

Ooh, I can't eat all
that. I just ate fifteen
Chilly Willy bars.

BARTON:

Scheme-man, lemme lay it
straight. I don't care
if you eat it, you're
gonna pay me for it.

GINNY:

Make sure you get cash,
Winslow?

BARTON:

What's that?

SCENE 12 (CONT'D)

MIDGE:

(WHISPERS TO BARTON)

Barton, it's not my place to say, but it would appear -- and I can't believe I'm not the first person to know -- but I have heard from very reliable sources that Schemer hasn't given anyone anything but IOU's.

BARTON:

Schemer? You hand me another IOU and I'll owe you . Dig?

GINNY:

Hands off, Winslow! This slimy scheming worm is mine first!

KIDS:

But what about our money??!

(AND SUDDENLY EVERYONE'S ARGUING AMONGST THEMSELVES ABOUT WHO GETS PAID FIRST. SCHEMER SLIPS UNDER THE COVERS, PADS BED WITH PILLOWS, AND CRAWLS OUT UNDER THEIR FEET, PAST GINNY ANGRILY WAVING THE POPSICLE IN BARTON'S FACE UNTIL --)

BECKY:

Hey, wait a minute!
Where's Schemer?

SCENE 12 (CONT'D)

GINNY:

WHAT do you mean? He's
right --

(PULLS BACK BLANKETS AND REVEALS NO
SCHEMER)

Pop me out of a toaster,
that weasel took a
powder! Winslow, fire up
that overgrown paint can
of yours and let's hit
the pavement!

(BARTON GETS ON CYCLE, MIDGE AND
GINNY HAVE ARGUMENT ABOUT WHO GETS
ON CYCLE WHERE, FINALLY ALL THREE
ARE ON, GINNY DRIVING, MIDGE
HANGING ON FOR DEAR LIFE BEHIND
HER, BARTON JAMMED IN THE SIDECAR.
GINNY, WEARING BARTON'S CRAZY HAT,
KICKSTARTS THE BIKE)

Onward ho, troops! We're
going weasel hunting.

(AND THEY BOMB OUT OF THERE,
LEAVING KIDS STARING AFTER THEM)

BECKY:

Gee. something tells me
Schemer's in a lot of
trouble.

(MR. C. APPEARS RIDING A BICYCLE
ALONG THE CLOTHESLINE)

MR. C:

Did someone say trouble?
That's so silly. If
people were just more
careful, they wouldn't
wind up in any --

KIDS:

Mr. Conductor, look out!

(BUT MR. C., WHO APPEARS ABOUT TO
FALL OF CLOTHESLINE, SIMPLY FLIPS
AROUND AND RIDES UPSIDE DOWN)

SCENE 12 (CONT'D)

MR. C:

-- trouble at all. Was there something I should be looking out for?

DAN:

How'd you do that?

(MR. C. RIDES BACK UP ON TOP OF LINE, COMES TO STOP)

MR. C:

This? This is simple once you know the trick of it. And speaking of tricks, it sounds to me like Schemer's been tricking some very good people.

BECKY:

He sure was. Schemer's been real immature.

KARA:

Irresponsible.

DAN:

Not caring about other people.

MR. C:

Oh, that's terrible! There's nothing worse than when people are irresponsible for those things they said they would be responsible for.

KARA:

Who do you mean, Mr. Conductor?

SCENE 12 (CONT'D)

MR. C:

Oh, I was just thinking
about certain people who
were helping other
certain people to certain
things.

DAN:

You mean like how I
walked out on Aunt Stacy
and didn't help her?

KARA:

I never did finish
helping Billy with the
shelf....

(TO DAN)

How could we do that?

MR. C:

Unfortunately, people
take people for granted a
lot, more than they
should. It's important
to think of all the ways
people help us, so we can
help them. Let me
explain:

(HE PRODUCES MAGIC BUBBLE)

Perhaps if you draw
nearer/I can make things
clearer/And explain such
trouble/With this magic
bubble!

(WITH THAT WE GO INTO:)

SCENE 13

(MAGIC BUBBLE SEQUENCE -- UNNAMED)

SCENE 14
(MAINSET)

DAN:

But how can we explain to
Billy and Aunt Stacy that
we didn't mean anything
wrong?

MR. C:

I could offer a
solution/To ease your
confusion/But it's not
for me/To grant
absolution!

(HE POPS OFF. STACY AND BILLY
ENTER)

STACY:

There you kids are.
We've been looking all
over --

DAN:

Aunt Stacy, Billy... Kara
and I have something to
say to you.

KARA:

Yeah. We're sorry for
the way we walked out on
you. It was really
irresponsible.

(STACY AND BILLY LOOK AT ONE
ANOTHER SURPRISED AT THE HONESTY
AND THE CONFESSION)

BILLY:

It sounds to me like
you realize you did
something wrong.

STACY:

Well, at least you were
strong enough to admit
it.

SCENE 14 (CONT'D)

(A VERY COCKY SCHEMER STROLLS IN TO TACK UP A SIGN)

SCHEMER:

He's a doer, he's a dreamer, he's absolutely Schemer and he's me!

STACY:

(PICKS UP TONE)

Which is more than I can say for some people who can't take responsibility for themselves or admit when they were wrong and treated people badly!

(SCHEMER, TACKING UP SIGN, TURNS, SEES ALL EYES ON HIM. HE LOOKS BEHIND HIM)

SCHEMER:

What? There's a guy like that here?

STACY:

Schemer, I --

SCHEMER:

Miss Jones Miss Jones
Miss Jones! I am way ahead of you!

BILLY:

So you admit what you've been doing is wrong?

SCHEMER:

Wrong? Ha! Good joke!
No, not wrong. I just over-estimated my employees. But I have solve the problem!

(GESTURES TO SIGN HE'S PUT UP.
BILLY READS:)

SCENE 14 (CONT'D)

BILLY:

"To all those people I wrote IOU's to: how I'm willing to repay them."

SCHEMER:

A lifetime membership to my arcade! For every nine times they use one of the machines, they get one free machine use, once a week, every other month, leap year excluded.

STACY:

Schemer, according to that you'd have to come to the arcade every day for four hundred and sixty-two years!

SCHEMER:

Always thinking, always thinking.

(WE HEAR MOTORCYCLE IN B.G. KIDS GO TO WINDOW TO INVESTIGATE)

STACY:

I don't know if all your "employees" are going to like that.

SCHEMER:

Miss Jones, I can handle them like --

(TRIES TO SNAP HIS FINGERS, CAN'T)

-- well, like not snapping your fingers.

DAN:

You better run, Schemer, here they come!

SCENE 14 (CONT'D)

SCHEMER:

You think Midge Smoot,
Ginny, and Barton Winslow
frighten me?

KARA:

Who's that lady who just
got off the train?

BECKY:

Ginny and Midge Smoot are
talking to her.

DAN:

She's coming this way.

SCHEMER:

Let them come. I'm not
worried.

BECKY:

The lady's wearing a
great big hat with
flowers on it and a
plastic skunk.

SCENE 14 (CONT'D)

SCHEMER:

Plastic skunk on her hat?
What a ridiculous thing
to -- PLASTIC SKUNK!!

(TERRIFIED HE RUSHES TO WINDOW,
SCREAMS)

IT'S MY MOMMY!

(HE RUNS AROUND LIKE A LUNATIC)

I can't let her see what
I've done, I can't let
her see all this! I've
got to clean up!

(HE STOPS, LOOKS AT EVERYONE,
CRAWLS ON HIS KNEES)

Anything, anything, you
can have two lifetime
memberships, just help me
clean up!

STACY:

Gee, Schemer, what would
it be if we helped you
clean up your own mess?

SCHEMER:

What it would be? It
would be fantastic! It
would be great!

BILLY:

Seems to me, Schemer, you
got yourself into this,
you'd better get yourself
out!

(GINNY APPEARS AT STEPS, STILL
WEARING BARTON WINSLOW'S HAT)

GINNY:

Schemer, you farm ferret,
there's someone here
wants to talk to you.

SCENE 14 (CONT'D)

(SCHEMER SCREAMS, RUNS TO ARCADE, TRIES TO PUT EVERYTHING INFOLDING BED AND FOLD UP BED TO COVER IT. KEEPS LOOKING BACK)

SCHEMER:

I can do it, I can do it,
I know I can... she'll
never know

(MIDGE SMOOTH APPEARS BESIDE GINNY)

MIDGE:

Schemer, I have it on
very good authority --
and I don't like to
gossip, but really you
won't believe it -- but
your mother cam home
early.

SCHEMER:

NO!

(BARTON APPEARS)

BARTON:

Looks like the jig's
up, Scheme-man. The old
lady blew into town
early!

(ALL THREE TURN AND CALL TO SOMEONE
O.S.)

ADULTS:

Mrs. Schemer!

(WE FOLLOW HEAVY FOOTSTEPS FOR POV
ENTERING STATION TO FIND SCHEMER
STRUGGLING WITH HIS BED. HE'S
SITTING ON IT TRYING TO HOLD
EVERYTHING IN. SUDDENLY, UNABLE TO
TAKE THE PRESSURE, THE BED POPS OPEN
AND SCHEMER TUMBLES TO THE FLOOR.
HE LOOKS UP)

SCENE 14 (CONT'D)

SCHEMER:

Mommy?

(TO END)